

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Huffman House

other names/site number 022-5003, Creekside Farm, Huffman Farm

2. Location

street & number State Route 42 RR1, Box 231

☒ not for publication

city or town Newport

state Virginia code VA county Craig code 045

vicinity
Zip 24128

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☐ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 6 </u>	<u> 4 </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u> 6 </u>	<u> 4 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

 N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u> DOMESTIC </u>	Sub: <u> Single Dwelling </u>
<u> COMMERCE </u>	<u> General Store </u>
<u> GOVERNMENT </u>	<u> Post Office </u>
<u> AGRICULTURAL </u>	<u> Animal Facility </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u> DOMESTIC </u>	Sub: <u> Single Dwelling </u>
<u> COMMERCE </u>	<u> General Store </u>
<u> AGRICULTURAL </u>	<u> Animal Facility </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

☐ No Style _____

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation ☐ brick/stone _____
roof ☐ metal _____
walls ☐ wood _____

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

☐ AGRICULTURE, ARCHITECTURE, COMMERCE _____

Period of Significance ___ 1835-1955 _____
_____Significant Dates ___ ca. 1835, 1907-1911 _____

_____Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
_____Cultural Affiliation ___ N/A _____

_____Architect/Builder ___ unknown _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

___ previously listed in the National Register

___ previously determined eligible by the National Register

___ designated a National Historic Landmark

___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

X State Historic Preservation Office

___ Other State agency

___ Federal agency

___ Local government

___ University

___ Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ___ 61.47 _____

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 ___ 2 ___

3 ___ 4 ___

___x_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The property is bounded on the north by Route 42 and by Sinking Creek to the east. To the south and west, the boundaries correspond with the property lines of adjacent properties.

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The boundaries of the proposed nomination conform to the property boundaries of the historic Huffman property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: _____ Lisa Marie Tucker, AIA, ASID

Organization: _____ Millennium Design _____
date _____ 7/15/04 _____

street & number: _____ 301 Third Avenue _____ telephone _____ 540.731.0696 _____

city or town _____ Radford _____ state _____ VA _____ zip code _____ 24141 _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____ Ronald B. and Carol D. Baker _____

street & number _____ 1114 Blue Grass Trail _____ telephone _____ 540 544 6980 _____

city or town _____ Newport _____ state _____ VA _____ zip code _____ 24128 _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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7. Summary Description:

The Huffman property features six contributing historic buildings: an early-nineteenth-century barn, a farmhouse built ca. 1835 with an addition and remodeling between 1907 and 1911, a corn crib, a wash house, a garage, and an early-twentieth-century store. Located along a primary travel route of the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries, the complex developed over time and has had many commercial and travel-related uses in addition to its primary purpose as an agricultural complex.

House

The main house is composed of an original early-nineteenth-century section to the north with an early twentieth century (completed in 1911) ell that was appended at the back. During the early-twentieth-century-renovation period, the front porch was "updated" to include vernacular Victorian details.

The earliest section of the house rests atop a brick foundation. It is two stories in height and features a side-facing, standing seam metal gable roof. Exterior end brick chimneys are located at each end. The windows are six-over-six double-hung-sash with mid-twentieth century storm windows added to the exterior. During this period of renovation, vinyl siding was also added to cover the wood weatherboard. (Siding and storm windows are in the process of being removed).

A one-story, shed roof porch extends across the front of the building and dates to the 1907-1911 renovation period. A two-story rear gabled ell was added between 1907 and 1911 and rests on a stone foundation. In the mid-twentieth century the porches on either side of the ell were enclosed to create additional interior spaces. One-over-one aluminum windows were used to provide light into the spaces. At this time, concrete block was used to reinforce the front porch foundation. During the current restoration, the concrete block will be parged with stucco and covered with lattice in accordance with a historic photograph of the house and the porch on the west side will be reopened as a porch.

The front section of the house features a single-pile center-hall plan with one room to each side. The hierarchy of the mantel designs indicates that the parlor was on the east side. A narrow quarter-turn stair with winders leads to the second floor which contains two large rooms (above each of the rooms below) and a smaller room above the front entry. The small room at the top of the stairs features

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exposed beaded beams. All four primary rooms feature vernacular Federal-style mantels. Like the first floor, the mantel in the east upstairs room is more elaborate than the simplified version found in the west room. All rooms contain chair rails while the formal rooms on the first floor also have horizontal butted board wainscot below. The doors are made of vertical boards with horizontal cross bracing and feature early lock boxes. The ell, located to the south of the original house, contains a dining room and kitchen with two bedrooms upstairs. Built-in cupboards and trim are typical of the 1907-1911 period when it was built. The interior doors in the rear ell feature four panels and ceramic knobs.

Barn

The barn located on the property is roughly contemporary with the house. The hand hewn structural members are mortised and tenoned. There is no ridge board to support the rafters which are also mortised and tenoned together. Vertical board siding covers the barn which features a metal, gable roof. To the rear (south) of the barn building is a round wooden silo topped by a small gable roof. Some modifications and repairs have been made to the barn over time. As deterioration has occurred, new lumber has been introduced both on the interior framing and to the exterior siding.

Store

The original store was built across the street in 1882 and was rebuilt in its existing form and location ca. 1901. The store features an open room in front with an office to the rear (south) and a storage area to the west. Original service counters and storage shelves dating to its period as a local post office remain as does much of the original hardware. The oak flooring is laid in six inch to eight inch planks, the interior walls are plaster with wood shelving units attached. On the exterior, the store is a one-story building with a front-facing metal gable roof and a shed extension to the east side. The store has a double-door entry and two six-over-six double-hung-sash windows on the front façade. Side windows in the storage area feature six-light sash.

Other Structures on the Site

Behind the store is a small frame outbuilding with horizontal wood siding and a metal gable roof. The small building features a window on the west side and was likely associated with the store when it was in operation. The owner identifies the original use for this building as a garage.

Behind the main house and located along the banks of the Sinking Creek, which runs through the

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property, are a collection of agricultural buildings built during the twentieth century. In addition to these structures, there are three outbuildings that appear to date to the late nineteenth or early twentieth century and are considered to be contributing: a wash house (now used as a garage), a garage storage building near the store, and a corncrib. All feature metal gable roofs. The wash house has horizontal wood siding and a single chimney at the south end while the corn crib features horizontal wood slats to allow air circulation in the building. The garage/storage building has been sided with standing seam metal roofing material on the west side.

8. Statement of Significance

Summary

The Huffman Property is of local significance as an excellent example of a small town center located along a major transportation route of the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries, the Cumberland Gap Turnpike. During its lifetime, the Huffman Property has maintained a country store which also held the local post office for a few years, has provided sleeping quarters to travelers along the turnpike, and has served as a local Baptismal house. It is one of three remaining examples located along Route 42 between New Castle and Newport. The complex features the original single-family dwelling that also doubled as a lodge to weary travelers, an early nineteenth-century barn, multiple nineteenth- and twentieth-century agricultural buildings and an early-twentieth-century store which illustrates the development over time. The property is also significant as a rare survivor of the many small but enduring farms that were confined to narrow creek valleys of the Allegheny Mountains in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Because the property has been exceptionally well cared for over the years, and the many utilitarian outbuildings still stand, the nominated parcel comprises a veritable museum of the rural, agrarian lifeways of the past.

Applicable Criteria

The Huffman Property is eligible under Criterion A in the areas of Agriculture and Commerce and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance. The period of significance spans from 1835, when the house was constructed, through 1955, encompassing the bulk of the property's time as a working farm and home of the Huffman store. During this period, the farm and store were established. Both businesses prospered for many years, but finally declined towards the end of the twentieth century.

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Acknowledgements

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I would like to acknowledge several people without whom this nomination would not have been possible: Carol and Ron Baker who sponsored this nomination and participated in the preliminary research, Fulton and Virginia Huffman for opening their home to me time and again, and to Michael Pulice at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources for his patient review of the nomination and assistance throughout the process.

Historical Background

The vernacular Federal-era detailing of the primary dwelling supports the owner's claim that the house was constructed ca. 1835. The first owners of record for the property were John S. Easley and his wife Agnes C. (circa 1833-1840).¹ They were members of the Sinking Creek Baptist Church of Christ (now called Level Green Church) which was located .5 miles from the house.²

Dr. John B. Taylor purchased the property in 1860 and maintained ownership until 1864. During the Civil War he was with the 1st regiment, Virginia volunteers. He took one of his slaves with him to help him with amputations of soldiers' arms and legs when they were injured.³ Dr. John B. Taylor deeded the property to George H. Williams in 1864⁴ who in turn sold the property to Marion L. Huffman in 1886⁵ Marion is Fulton Huffman's grandfather. (The current owners purchased the house from Fulton in 2003. Fulton is 94 years old and still resides in the house.)

Marion Huffman ran the store--referred to locally as "the Gathering Place." The original store was located across Route 42 (1882) and was located to its current location in 1901. Marion was the postmaster for Huffman.⁶ The Post Office was located in the store circa 1888 until the early 1900's. Chataigne's VA Gazeteer and classified Business Directory of Craig County 1888-1889 lists Marion L. Huffman as the Postmaster. Anah Eskeridge Huffman (Marion's son and Fulton's father) owned the land after his father's death until he died in 1934. During this period, the rear ell and front porch were added. A post card from 1907 shows the rear ell in place with no front porch. Land tax records show a major change to the property in 1911, when the front porch was likely completed. The land was then divided between his wife, Gillie, and four children in 1938.⁷

The store served as the local post office between 1891 and 1907 according to receipts held by the Huffmans. According to an 1891 postal guide, M.L Huffman is listed as the postmaster for Huffman. In addition to postal services, local telephone service was also routed through the Huffman store in the early twentieth century. Mrs. Huffman relayed messages via a crank phone

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that was sold during the final store liquidation sale in 1977. Mrs. Huffman also claims to have filled orders for local inmates when local prison officials would bring orders to the store. The store sold a variety of wares including shoes, furs, local rabbits, ginseng, hams and other food stuffs. Gas pumps located in front of the store provided locals with a convenient stop for gas along Route 42.

In addition to the grain, food and sundries and services provided by the Huffman Store, some local residents would just stop by to visit and have lunch. The charge for a meal was fifty cents and you could feed your horse as well for an additional 25 cents.

Corn for feed was raised on the farm. In addition to growing corn and the crops needed for family consumption, the Huffman farm also maintained several chicken facilities. Laying hens where housed within the facility and eggs were sold at the store.

Fulton L. Huffman bought his brother's, sister and mother's interests in the property in 1946⁸ Ronald B. and Carol D. Baker purchased the property from Fulton and Virginia Huffman 14 May 2003.⁹ Fulton and Virginia Huffman still live in the house as a lifetime estate.¹⁰

According to the Land Tax Record for the time period between 1865 and 1951, significant property value increases occurred in 1866 (a forty percent increase in building value) and 1911 when there was a 200% increase in building values, including of the addition of the rear ell of the house, incorporating the dining room and bedrooms. Other increases in property value occurred in 1872, 1881, 1885, 1917, 1948, and 1949. The entry in 1917 is the only entry which contains notations about "noted improvements" to the buildings. These improvements resulted in a thirty-three percent increase in value.¹¹

Notes

1. Historic Virginia Maps of Fincastle –Cumberland Gap Turnpike, dated 1883. Consulted at the Newman Library, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia.
2. Church Book 20, August 1836. Consulted at the Craig County Historical Society in New Castle, Virginia.
3. Hard Times, 1861-1865, a collection of Confederate letters and Lore or Craig County compiled by the Craig County Historical Society.

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4. Deed Book B, page 6.
5. Deed Book D, page 444.

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6. Interview with Fulton and Virginia Huffman, March 2004.
7. Deed Book 4, page 178.
8. Deed Book 8, page 341.
9. Deed Book 135, page 553.
10. Interview with Carol and Ron Baker, March 2004.
11. Land Tax Record for Craig County, 1865-1951.

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Bibliographic Resources

Craig County Land Tax Records, 1865-1951, Craig County Courthouse located in New Castle, Virginia.

Craig County Deeds, 1865-2004, Craig County Courthouse, located in New Castle, Virginia.

Deed Book B, page 6.

Deed Book D, page 444.

Deed Book 4, page 178.

Deed Book 8, page 341.

Deed Book 135, page 553.

Level Green Church Book 20, August 1836. Craig County Historical Society, located in New Castle, Virginia.

Hard Times, 1861-1865, a collection of Confederate Letters and Lore of Craig County compiled by the Craig County Historical Society.

Historic Virginia Maps of Fincastle –Cumberland Gap Turnpike, dated 1883. Newman Library, Virginia Tech, Historical Maps Collection, Blacksburg, Virginia.

Interviews with former owner and current occupant Fulton Huffman during fall of 2003 and spring 2004.

Land Tax Records for Craig County, 1865-1951.

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UTM Coordinates

A	17	529500	334500
B	17	531500	332500
C	17	531000	329750
D	17	529750	329000
E	17	530250	326750
F	17	528500	326000
G	17	526500	331250

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HUFFMAN HOUSE
Craig County, Virginia

VDHR # 022-5003
Photography by Lisa Marie Tucker
March 2004, July 2004
All original negatives are located
in the VDHR Archives in Richmond, Virginia

1 of 10	View: House, North Side Negative Number: 21605	6 of 10	View: Store and House, North Side Negative Number: 21604
2 of 10	View: House, West Side Negative Number: 21605	7 of 10	View: Interior Store Negative Number: 21605
3 of 10	View: House, Interior Hall Negative Number: 21606	8 of 10	View: Washhouse West Side Negative Number: 21604
4 of 10	View: House, Upstairs Hall Negative Number: 21606	9 of 10	View: Corncrib, NW corner Negative Number: 21604
5 of 10	View: House, Interior room mantel Negative Number: 21606	10 of 10	View: Barn, East Side Negative Number: 21605

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